

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 12087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, VN

SUBJECT: VIET NAM'S DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT BRUSSELS

REF BRUSSELS 10765

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS (STEYAERT) TOLD US THAT THE ONLY INTERESTING POINTS TO COME OUT OF "IMPROVISED" TWO DAY VISIT OF VIET NAM DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH TO BRUSSELS NOV 8-9 WERE INFORMAL COMMENTS MADE AT LUNCH BY MEMBERS OF THE VIETNAMESE PARTY ABOUT CURRENT US-VIETNAM TALKS BEING HELD IN PARIS. STEYAERT SAID VIETNAMESE TOLD BELGIANS THEY WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A QUICK AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES, BUT STEYAERT WAS STRUCK BY THE TONE OF THAT OBSERVATION WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "MATTER OF FACT" AND CLEARLY "NOT HOSTILE". ON SUBJECT OF MIAS, VIETNAMESE TOLD BELGIANS THAT THEY VIEWED THEIR RECENT GESTURES TO US AS "MAJOR GESTURES" AND HAD EXPECTED MORE OF A US RESPONSE TO THEM. THIS WAS ALSO STATED "WITHOUT HOSTILITY" STEYAERT SAID. BESIDES THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, THE VIETNAMESE PARTY INCLUDED MAI VAN BO, DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. VO VAN SUNG, AMBASSADOR TO PARIS, AN AIDE AND AN INTERPRETER.

2. STEYAERT SAID THAT THE GREAT PART OF VISIT WAS TAKEN UP BY AID AND ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS. VIETNAMESE TALKED ABOUT A DRAFT INVESTMENT CODE WITH GUARANTEES FOR FIFTEEN YEARS. VIETNAMESE PRESENTED THEIR ECONOMIC
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ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR FOUR-YEAR PLAN, BASED

ON THE ULBRICHT STUDY MADE UNDER UN AUSPICES. STEYAERT
SAID BELGIANS REPONDED IN FOLLOWING MANNER:

- BELGIUM READY TO EXAMINE SPECIFIC, PRIORITY
PROJECTS;
- BELGIUM'S BEST CONTRIBUTION COULD WELL BE IN TRANSPORTATION
SECTOR, ESPECIALLY RAILROADS;
- BELGIUM "DISCOURAGED" GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
LOANS, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT GIVE FLAT NO;
- BELGIUM READY FOR INCREASED COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

STEYAERT ADDED THAT BELGIUM ALREADY IS ENGAGED IN JOINT
"SMALL PROJECTS" WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO
THE TUNE OF ABOUT FB 35 MILLION (FB 36 A \$1) WITH THE
COST SPLIT 75 PERCENT GOB - 25 PERCENT GVN.FIRESTONE

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